



# LINCOLN CHAFEE

## U.S. SENATOR

### RHODE ISLAND

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For more information:**

**Pete Rafle, The Wilderness Society, (202) 429-2642**

**Stephen Hourahan, Sen. Lincoln Chafee, (202) 224-6167**

#### **PROMINENT AMERICANS VOICE OPPOSITION TO DRILLING IN ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

*Roosevelt, Eisenhower, Rockefeller Take Message to Capitol Hill:*

*"Keep Arctic Refuge Drilling Out Of Budget Resolutions"*

**Washington, DC – March 9, 2005** – A delegation of prominent Americans is visiting Capitol Hill today to deliver a message that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge should remain wild, unspoiled and free of oil drilling. **Susan Eisenhower**, granddaughter of the president who set aside the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (then known as the "Arctic National Wildlife Range") in 1960, **Theodore Roosevelt IV**, great grandson of the president who established the National Wildlife Refuge system in 1903, and **Larry Rockefeller**, founder of "Americans for Energy Security," which has worked to focus attention on automobile efficiency and national security, voiced their concern about Arctic drilling at a press conference at the offices of **Senator Lincoln Chafee (R-RI)**.

Some members of Congress have indicated that they will try to include drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as part of the budget resolutions being debated in committee this week. Americans are overwhelmingly opposed (72% v. 18% in a bipartisan January 2005 poll) to including drilling in the Arctic Refuge in the budget process.

"The issue of oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge is too important to the American public and future generations to be snuck through in the budget bill in an attempt to circumvent the established process," said Senator Chafee, who has been a steadfast defender of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and who visited the disputed coastal plain of the refuge with his wife in 2003. "If it is to be considered at all, it should be discussed and brought to a vote on its own merits."

"The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is an American treasure. Wilderness and oil development do not—cannot—mix," said Theodore Roosevelt IV. "We have a solemn duty to exhaust every available option before we even consider doing irreparable damage

to the Arctic Refuge. My great-grandfather's advice still applies: "Leave it as it is; the ages have been at work on it, and man can only mar it.""

"Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge won't bring America closer to energy security," said Susan Eisenhower, Senior Fellow and Chairman Emeritus of the Eisenhower Institute and a recognized expert on international affairs and national security. "The US has only three percent of the world's oil reserves, but we use 25 percent of the oil consumed in the world each year. Until we take real steps to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, we will remain subject to all the risks associated with our dependence on imported oil."

"The best ways to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil are to conserve more, waste less, and develop more fuel-efficient cars so we use less oil and gas," said Larry Rockefeller, who founded Americans for Alaska in the 1970s to help protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other wild places in Alaska. "By tapping the vast supply of energy-efficiency savings available in our homes, workplaces and vehicles as well as by developing non-oil sources of renewable power, the equivalent of dozens of 'arctic refuges' worth of oil savings can be secured."

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